



NEWS RELEASE

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Former Bell Council Member Sentenced to Year in Jail

Former Bell City Councilman George Mirabal was sentenced today to a year in jail and ordered to pay more than \$242,000 in restitution to the city, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Mirabal, 64, is the first of five former council members to be sentenced in a massive public corruption case that nearly bankrupted the city of 35,000.

Superior Court Judge Kathleen Kennedy also placed Mirabal on probation for five years and ordered him to perform 1,000 hours of community service.

Deputy District Attorneys Sean Hassett and Edward Miller with the Public Integrity Division were seeking a four-year prison term.

Jurors in March 2013 convicted Mirabal of five counts of misappropriation of public funds. In April of this year, he pleaded no contest to two additional counts of misappropriation of public funds to avoid a retrial.

Mirabal, along with former Mayor Oscar Hernandez, former Vice Mayor Teresa Jacobo and former Councilmembers Victor Bello and George Cole, were convicted of stealing a total of nearly \$1 million.

When Mirabal was appointed to the Bell City Council in 1993 after serving one year as city clerk, he earned \$434 a month. When he resigned from the council in 2010 as the scandal became public, he earned in excess of \$100,000 annually.

The five hiked their pay by voting for illegal raises and creating sham boards and commissions that never met or convened for only minutes a year.

Sentencing for the remaining four defendants is as follows:

July 23 for Cole; July 25 for Jacobo; July 31 for Hernandez; and Aug. 1 for Bello.

In addition to Mirabal, two other former Bell officials have been sentenced.

Robert Rizzo, Bell's former chief administrative officer and the leading conspirator, was sentenced April 16 to 12 years in state prison and ordered to repay \$8.8 million in restitution to the city.

A week earlier, Pier' Angela Spaccia, Bell's former assistant chief administrative officer, was sentenced to 11 years, eight months in state prison and ordered to pay more than \$8.2 million in restitution to the city.

The case was investigated by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.